



THE FORTRESS

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BARONY OF CAERTHE

UNTO THE STEADFAST AND NOBLE POPULACE OF THE GREAT BARONY OF CAERTHE
DO DOMENICO AND MARIA, BARONE E BARONESSA SEND GREETINGS!



Photo by His Honor Domin d'Alsace

It has definitely been a year hasn't it? Around this time in 2020, Domenico and I were getting ready to head to lovely Fontaine dans Sable to welcome the Kingdom's newest Prince and Princess. Needless to say, the cancellation of that event was an unfortunate harbinger of things to come for the rest of 2020. His Excellency and I have missed our populace, fancy garb, and events with friends from all over The Kingdom and beyond.

To get your event fix in the meantime, please attend the Cook's Guild virtual event **1066: The Battle of Tastings** on April 24th. Will the French or the English win this culinary battle? Tune in to find out!

In other news, it does seem like there is a light ahead. The vaccine is being distributed and many people are already protected. As we continue to hear positive developments towards the nearing end of the pandemic, we look forward to the warming weather and the eventual resumption of live activities. Their Majesties, Bela and Nerissa, have been in regular conversations with SCA Corporate regarding safe strategies for reopening and more information will be forthcoming as the situation continues to develop.

As for us, our mind is on the future of Caerthe! We have discussed with the Crown that it is, regretfully, our time to step down as Baron and Baroness and have received Their permission to begin the process. We have very much enjoyed our time with our wonderful populace, and are thankful we had so much in-person eventing before the pandemic brought it to a halt. While we will miss all your smiling faces, we know the populace of Caerthe is strong and sure to produce many great candidates to take our place!

It is our intention to step down in **August 2021**, ideally at a live event, presuming they are permitted by that time. Currently,

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the plan is that once acceptable candidates have been confirmed, the Polling will be conducted virtually - subject to the discretion of the Crown.

Their Majesties have charged us with issuing this call for **Letters of Intent** from any who would seek consideration for this prestigious honor. Interested parties are hereby requested to submit their Letter of Intent to the Crown at: Crown@Outlands.org. Please be sure to also **copy our Baronial Seneschal**, Lady Elizabeth Winter at seneschal@caerthe-sca.org. Letters of Intent are to be received by **11:59PM on May 15th 2021**.

For consideration, complete Letters of Intent should contain the following:

1. Your SCA names, mundane names and address(es) - Residency within the bounds of the Caerthe is required.
2. Membership numbers - Paid Society membership is required.
3. Your "SCA Resume" - A Brief history of your activities in the SCA, the Outlands and Caerthe. Any additional information regarding your mundane experience and/or skills that transfer into this role is also encouraged.
4. A Plan of Action outlining how you would lead Caerthe - This should include details such as what, why and how you would set as goals to accomplish during your tenure.

We would like to thank their Majesties, our dear cousins within the Landed Nobility, and all the very fine members of the Populace who have encouraged and supported us along this adventure. Our lives have been forever touched by this experience, and we hope at a minimum, that you can say the same. We would encourage any who are contemplating submitting Letters to reach out to us privately with any questions, if we may be of assistance to you during this process. We look forward to working with our chosen heirs for a smooth and peaceful transition, in the next chapter of the Barony of Caerthe and the Kingdom of the Outlands.

Additionally, if becoming Landed Nobility is not the right thing for you, we are also looking for a number of **officer positions** such as Exchequer, Chronicler, Scribe, Youth Minister, and Fighting Marshal. If you'd like to help out the barony in one of these exciting officer positions, please contact the seneschal, Lady Elizabeth Winter seneschal@caerthe-sca.org.

Ever Yours in Service

Domenico e Maria



BARONIAL OFFICERS

** Officers with an asterisk by their name are looking for a replacement.

Arts & Sciences Minister:
Lady Arndis Knytir
art-sci@caerthe-sca.org

Aspen Pursuivant (Herald):
Master Jethro Stile
herald@caerthe-sca.org

Captain of Archers:
Lord Dubhghaill Mac Gilla Easbaig
archery@caerthe-sca.org

Chatelaine (Gold Key):
Lord Morgan Kynnyth
chatelaine@caerthe-sca.org

Chronicler:
Lord Khaliu Cessilus**
chronicler@caerthe-sca.org

Equestrian Marshal:
Lady Marisse do Bourgogne
equestrian@caerthe-sca.org

Exchequer:
Master Logan of Logan**
exchequer@caerthe-sca.org

Baronial Marshal:
Baron Estavon dela Vega**
marshal@caerthe-sca.org

Minister of Lists/Deputy MoL:
Lady Arndis Knytir/ Mistress. Ymanie the Midwife
lists@caerthe-sca.org

Quartermaster:
THL Angus Montgomery the Forrester
quartermaster@caerthe-sca.org

Rapier Marshal:
Don Jehan Mohr
rapier@caerthe-sca.org

Scribe:
THL Marion Forester*
scribe@caerthe-sca.org

Seneschal:
Lady Elizabeth Winter
seneschal@caerthe-sca.org

Social Media Officer:
THL Pettronella Pártaszövő
socialmedia@caerthe-sca.org

Webwright:
Lady Teresia Thoma
web@caerthe-sca.org

Youth Minister:
Lady Anneka of Hogland**
youth@caerthe-sca.org

Lord Domenico Forestani & Lady Maria Castelana: excellencies@caerthe-sca.org

BARONY OF CAERTHE CHAMPIONS!

A&S Champion:	Lady Chelsea Webber	Sword of Chivalry:	Lord Tyler Farquad
Archery Warden:	THL Eirikr Morrison	Premier Blade:	Lord Nova
Crossbow Warder:	Don Santiago Rodriguez de Cadiz	Blade of Chivalry:	Godric of Caerthe
Equestrian Champion:	Lady Kublai Ksenyia	Cut & Thrust:	Lady Elora Von Effyn
Thrown Weapons:	Master Jethro Stille		
Blackthorn Bard:	L. Otto of Cote du Ciel	Warlord:	Sir Davin Drakere

BARONIAL PROGRESS:	EVENTS CALENDAR:
Note to the Populace In-person events are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 situation in our country until further notice. Virtual events are still going on! 4/13 - virtual <i>1066: The Battle of Tastings</i> <i>If you are reading this, you have not (yet) starved to death, which means that on some level you can cook. Congratulations! You are eligible to win this amazing prize chalice, filled with good stuff!</i> <i>What do you have to do to possess this coveted prize, which is growing daily as I collect more donated prize items? You have until March 13 to submit a recipe. Just one recipe, although if you submit more, you improve your chances of winning.</i> <i>Any recipe, you ask? Well, not just ANY recipe. It needs to meet certain criteria: no ingredients on the "red" list, and no more than two that aren't on the "green" and "yellow" lists for your team. (Lists here).</i> <i>Does it have to be completely medieval? NO!</i> <i>Does it have to be an original redaction? NO!</i> <i>Does it have to be difficult to make? NO!</i> <i>Does it have to be gluten-free, milk-free, or vegan? NO! But it helps if we have recipes in those categories, so we can have an inclusive event.</i> <i>Do I have to schedule a cook-along? Only if you don't mind showing others how to make the recipe!</i> <i>Got a recipe in mind now? Submit it here: https://forms.gle/DT84weq9EjvUopJx9</i> <i>Battlemoor XI has been postponed until 2022 when we can be sure it's safe to gather in large groups.</i>	All Kingdom Events may be found here! https://www.outlands.org/events Business Meetings: CURRENTLY ONLINE VIA ZOOM 6:30pm - 8:30pm: 1st Monday of each Month At Fighter Practice: 1205 East 8th Ave. Denver, CO Please check Facebook for location. https://www.facebook.com/caerthe.sca/ Fighter Practice: CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE 6:00pm - 10:00pm: Monday Corona Presbyterian Church 1205 East 8th Ave. Denver, CO Archery Practice: CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE 9:00am-12:00pm: Sunday Scout Park, 132 E 112th Pl, Northglenn Indoor site: Empty Quiver Archery, 7180 W. 117th Ave., Unit C, Broomfield Hosted Gatherings: CANCELLED OR VIRTUAL UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE Guilds & Populace Social links: Apothecary Guild https://tinyurl.com/caerthe-apothecary Caerthe Cavalry https://www.facebook.com/groups/CaertheCavalry Children's Guild https://tinyurl.com/caerthe-children-guild Cooks Guild https://tinyurl.com/caerthe-cooks-guild Jeweler's Guild https://www.facebook.com/groups/JewelersGuildofCaerthe Outlands Archery and Thrown Weapons https://tinyurl.com/outlands-archery Scribe's Guild https://tinyurl.com/caerthe-scribes-guild Scola Metallorum https://www.facebook.com/ScolaMetallorum/ Canton of Ravenhyrst https://www.facebook.com/ravenhyrst Canton of Hawks Hallow https://www.facebook.com/HawksHollowSCA



BARONIAL REPORT: THE SENESCHAL

UNTO THE POPULACE OF CAERTHE, DO I, LADY ELIZABETH WINTER, SENESCHAL OF CAERTHE, SEND WARMEST GREETINGS,

It has been all too long since last I saw your faces and had the pleasure of your company.

It is with hope and optimism that I anticipate spending time with many of you later this year.

I encourage you to join us for Caerthe's upcoming virtual event, **1066: The Battle of Tastings!** The event steward, staff, and Caerthe's Cooks' Guild have been working hard to make this an enjoyable time for us to spend together-apart.

I would like to thank all the baronial officers for their hard work. Several of them will be moving on to Kingdom positions soon and we need someone to step in and fill their very large shoes. In most cases these positions only require a modest time investment. Please seriously consider lending your time and talents to the Barony as an officer! It is absolutely imperative that we continue to fulfill these roles. Until the time when next we shall meet, I bid you courage!

Yours in Service,

Lady Elizabeth Winter

Seneschal, Barony of Caerthe





BARONIAL REPORT: THE SCRIBE

UNTO THE POPULACE OF CAERTHE, DO I, THL MARION FORESTER, SCRIBE OF CAERTHE, SEND WARMEST GREETINGS,

I hope all are doing well and learning lots of scribal stuff from all of the digital scribal classes offered across the Knowne World! Although I love scribal activities and have enjoyed my time as baronial scribe, it is time for another to take up that mantle. But don't dismay! I will still be your friendly scribal enthusiast, but I will be encouraging the kingdom to do all sorts of arts and sciences activities. At the end of March, I will be taking the Kingdom Arts and Sciences Minister office.

While I am looking forward to my new duties, I had a really good time as baronial scribe. I loved being one of the first to find out what people were getting which awards. I embraced my silly side in having people making award scrolls for the person who was making an award scroll for them.

I want to thank all of those who worked on scrolls while I was in office. Nothing works without you. Your artwork was stunning, and I couldn't wait to see what you had created. You bring a joy to award recipients and enhance the barony with your hard work.

Thank you to Their Excellencies who put their trust in me to make sure the scrolls got done and for giving me plenty of time ahead of an event to assign a scribe and give them as much time as possible to work on the scroll.

Thank you to my family who put up with the weeks just before a big event when I was working on a project or making sure that the scribes had what they needed to be successful.

Thank you to all those who came to scribal nights, taught scribal activities, or painted or worked on calligraphy at an event and added to the joy creation.

In service,

Marion Forester

Figs In The French Style (Higos a la Francesca)

By: Lady ***Lianor da Costa***

We are all devastated that we can't be together at the feasting board right now because of the plague. But fear not, you can bring some of the feast magic into your manor with this simple yet elegant dish of **Figs in the French Style (Higos a la Francesca)**! It is vegan and gluten free and would make a great addition to any meal or charcuterie board. The figs, once cooked, can be served on their own with a drizzle of their syrup, or chopped and mixed in with goat cheese to make a delectable spread... that is, if you have any figs left over! When finished, besides the figs, you will also have a delicious syrup, which you can use to plate the figs, or drizzle on waffles at breakfast the following morning. If you want syrup for later use, put in a half cup more wine.



This recipe is from **Ruperto de Nola's Libre del Coch**, a Spanish cookbook from 1529. Nola recommends it to be served as an appetizer, but it is very sweet and highly addictive, so I recommend it be served for dessert, or else paired with a coordinating cheese. It being a

Spanish recipe, I suggest manchego, but if you want to make it more French because your country is at war with Spain, brie would also pair well. If you don't have poudre douce, some ginger and cinnamon will do the trick nicely. It is important to also remember that these figs will increase choleric humours in the body, being somewhat hot and dry by nature. If you tend toward an excess of choler, balance the figs with something cold and wet, such as a fresh cheese rather than an aged one.

The original recipe:

Take dried figs, the sweetest that you can get, black and white, and remove the stems and wash them with good white wine which is sweet; and when they are very well-cleaned, take an earthenware casserole which is big enough, which has a flat bottom, and cast them inside, stirring them a little; and then put this casserole upon the coals, and well-covered in a manner that it is stewed there. And when they are stewed, and they will have absorbed all of the moisture of the wine, stir them a little, and cast fine spice on top of them; and turn them, stirring in a manner that incorporates that spice in them; and then eat this food; and it is an elegant thing; and it should be eaten at the beginning of the meal.

My reduction:

24 dried figs
1-2 tsp poudre douce, to taste
1 1/2 - 2 cups Moscato or other sweet white wine
(use 2 cups if you want the syrup)

Remove any stems from the figs. Place the figs in a single layer in a casserole dish. Sprinkle with poudre douce and pour wine over them. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until liquid is absorbed and reduced. If the liquid is absorbed too quickly, add more wine during cooking. The dish should have a layer of syrup at the bottom when done. Serve the figs hot.



All photos in this article by Lady Lianor di Costa



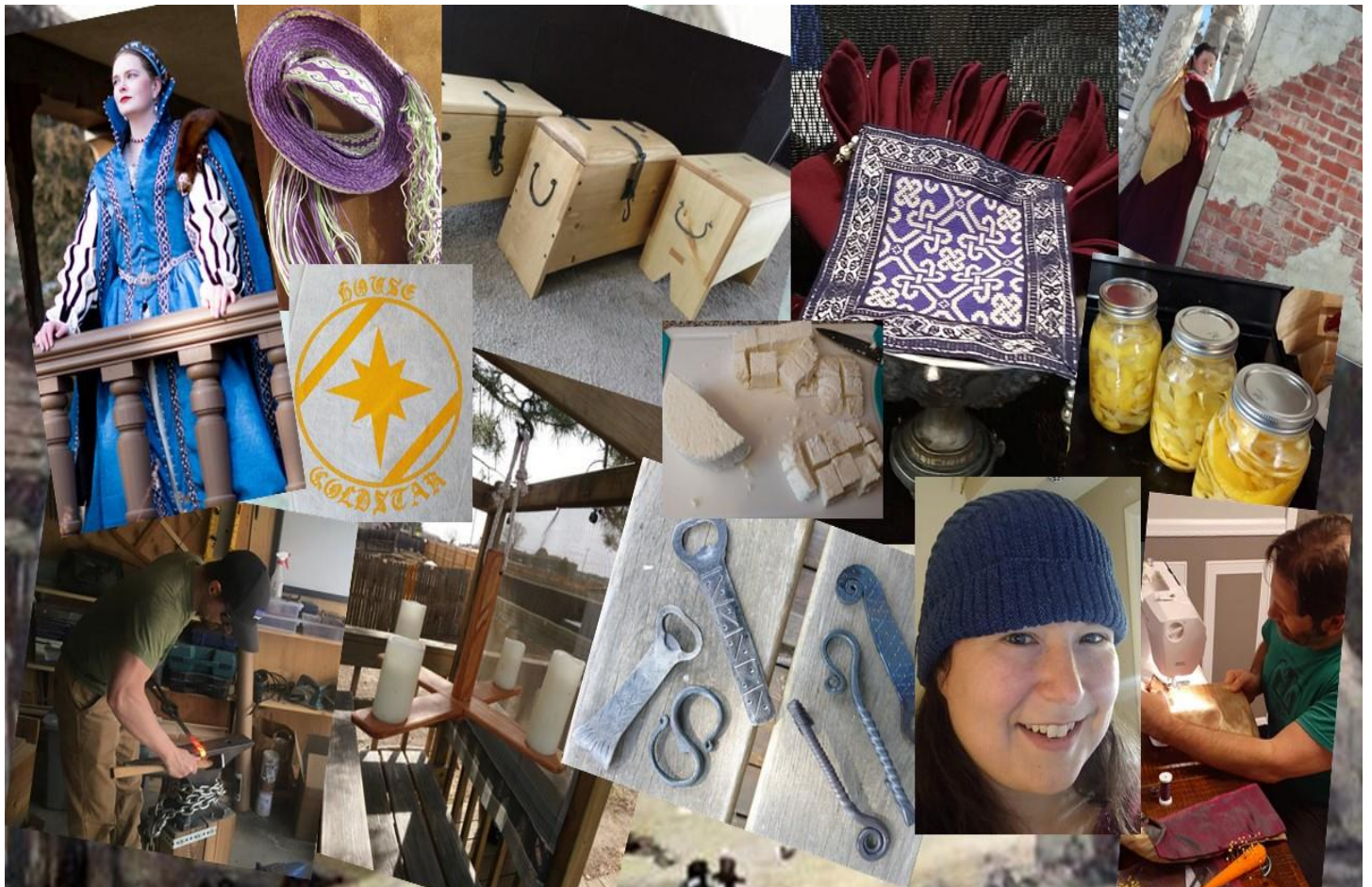
Lady Lianor is also the autocrat of our upcoming event on April 24th, **1066: The Battle of Tastings**. Take a look at this beautiful Grand Prize basket she has made for the best recipe (There will also be a Baron's and Baroness's choice award).



MEET THE BARONY: CRAFTY CAERTHENS!

Caerthens have been busy during the pandemic making garb, blacksmithing, woodworking, cooking and filming how-to costuming videos for YouTube, just to name a few! Check out some of the cool things they've have been working on. I can't wait to attend events again just to see these amazing pieces. Keep crafting, Caerthe!

- *Maria*



Many thanks to the following gentles for submitting pictures of their art! HE Nico Forestani, Graf Iohann der Fuchs, THL Isabelle de Calais, Lady Astriðr Ylgr, THL Ruairidh Alasdair MhicLeoid aka Tam Lin, Lady Lianor di Costa, Lady Arndis Knytir

The Adventures of Don Santiago



Picture by Lady Kára Sterki

BY MARIA CASTELANA (MKA LYNDIE CLARK)

These are the Adventures of Don Santiago Rodriguez de Cadiz, a marine pre-salvage expert whose ship sunk many, many, many, many times. As told by Her Excellency, Baroness Maria Castelana.

Episode 1: *La Pelusa Abroja*

As the thistledown floats gracefully upon the breeze, so does *La Pelusa Abroja*, on the sea. The graceful and steadfast caravela is that of Don Santiago Rodriguez de Cadiz, marine pre-salvage expert, swashbuckler, debonair gentleman and, let us be honest, filthy pirate. Don Santiago didn't much care for the term "pirate" so, early in his career of vile lawlessness, he sought out sponsorship from his generous and magnanimous monarchs, King Irel Krist of Starre Inn and Queen Rosalind of Wellmark. In exchange for freedom of the seas in their Letters of Marque, he pledged his loyalty

along with one-fifth of his spoils to the Crown (If you ask Don Santiago, he will tell you that only fifteen percent was agreed upon, but who are we to question our great rulers?).

Within these pages, I will tell you the story of Don Santiago's first ship, *La Pelusa Abroja* which sailed for fifteen years on the Aten Sea but did, eventually, sink. Don Santiago didn't know it at the time, but the gruesome fate of this caravela would be one repeated many times throughout his years on the sea. However, never one to be deterred by a small problem such as this, he would continue to purchase, build, and commandeer other forms of sea-faring transportation in his constant quest to appease his rulers and fill his pockets.

However, I am getting ahead of myself. To understand Don Santiago, we will first have to understand how he came into his many titles. A young musketeer, Santiago was a rash and boisterous lad, too quick to challenge and even quicker to be bested by those more skilled than he. Determined to make a name for himself, as soon as he reached adulthood, he left home to set sail on the Frozen Seas of the North. Living as part of a crew made up primarily of young men like himself, he learned to be strong, hard-working, and sly. Most of all, he learned the ways of the water – how to sail, fish, and survive for long periods of time with no land in sight.

If I told you that during his first several years as a sailor, he experienced the sinking of a ship more times than a young man should, you likely wouldn't believe me. But nevertheless, it is all true, a harbinger of things to come. It also happened that during this time, Santiago acquired his characteristic resilience as well as his addiction to cheating death. The pump of his heart in his ears, the rush of water flooding in, the screams of crew members as they drowned, all became music to Santiago as he swept in to be the hero. Well, more or less.

This fate had befallen several ships that Santiago crewed on, so after the third (or fourth, he could never remember) incident, he found himself in control of his first ship, *La Pelusa Abroja*. The captain mysteriously disappeared one night, the first mate, too. Some speculated that they had fallen overboard during a bad storm, while others wondered if they'd been murdered most foully. Santiago, however, asserted that they had simply left—enticed by a bigger ship and a promise of greater treasure in the south. Either way, they were gone, leaving this unruly crew to their own devices.

This was a perfect opportunity for young Santiago to justify his power grab because *someone* had to maintain order. With his winning smile, dashing good looks, and silver tongue, no one argued with him. *Captain* Santiago as born! His first order: Get the hell out of the cold northern wasteland and venture into the warm Aten Sea. It was here that he sought out royal sponsorship, knowing well that King Irel and Queen Rosalind held him in high regard. Santiago, as he always proclaimed, was a right and loyal subject of the kingdom first and foremost. In this agreement with The Crown, he promised to only harass those freighters and warships that traversed the Aten Sea on their way to the far-off Land of the Sun.

As the Aten Sea is very large, it took Santiago some time to collect enough spoils to justify returning to his homeland and paying his tithe to The Crown. It was on this homeward journey, this last, fateful journey, that terrible misfortune befell him and the entire crew of *La Pelusa Abroja*.

The night was a dark one, but clear and cool. Stars and constellations winked through the blackness, and the breeze blew steady and fast. Santiago took a deep breath of the salty air, blond hair cast from his face in defiance, and gave thanks. His hold was full of spoils from the seas: gold and silver, spices, whisky, exotic treats, toys, and swords. His belly was full of the last catch of this journey. His spirits were raised by the spirits he'd consumed and his heart was light.

The coast of his homeland was in sight, a solid darkness against the star-speckled sky and white tipped sea. The lighthouse on the spur was flashing its warm, familiar glow back and forth across the channel. Santiago could almost taste the familiar aromas of bakeries and distilleries, leatherworkers and blacksmiths. By morning, they would be pulling up to the docks and unloading the booty. For an official first foray into the great seas, this adventure was turning out exactly as he had imagined.

This pirating, no *privateering*, thing was easy. They would be home in no time!

Suddenly, the sea beside them began to roil and froth, whitecaps rising higher and higher until they licked the deck's rails. Within the tumultuous waters, Santiago noticed a creature of magnificent proportions, with great shining eyes and massive tentacles. He could not believe his eyes! Creatures of the deep do not appear this close to land! The heavy food and whisky must be playing tricks on him.

It was when one of these tentacles flopped onto the deck, writhing and slimy with algae, that Santiago realized this was no trick of drink. The creature must have followed them all the way from the great Maelstrom of Sun Dragon. Santiago cursed. This was the *last* thing they needed during the final hours of their journey. Dodging out of the way, he pulled his trusty rapier, *el espalon del gallo*, as the tentacle smashed through the cabin wall.

“Monster afoot!” The first mate cried, “All hands on deck!”

Sailors swarmed up from the hold, some carrying crude weapons, other scurrying up the rigging to prepare the ship for evasive maneuvers. Santiago stared momentarily into the terrible eye of the beast which he now knew as a Kraken, a huge squid-like monster with the intelligence of a man.

The Kraken was making short work of his ship. The aft mast had already been cracked in twain and they were listing to one side. Sailors ineffectively fired pistols into the creature, but the bullets bounced off like pebbles. The first mate leaned on the helm, but the ship began sailing in dizzying spirals. Water was flooding in from a hundred different holes. Crew members were being grabbed and pulled toward the monster’s toothy maw.

It was hopeless, Santiago thought, hacking at one purplish appendage. Every time they severed one, it seemed that two more took its place. Try as they might, he feared they were doomed.

“Abandon ship!” Santiago called, mentally sobbing at the loss of such great treasures.

Lifeboats launched, sailors cast themselves off the ship with terror. The creature snagged at those as well, as their occupants tried to desperately row away from the grasping tentacles. Santiago, hanging on to the main mast, watched as one-by-one, his crew was taken from him, stolen by the brutality of the sea.

When the chaos finally began to calm, the monster sated by the lives of his many man, it slipped silently away, back down into the inky depths. Santiago was left alone. *La Pelusa Abroja*, fatally crippled, was silent, save for the creak of mangled rigging, the crack of fallen timber, and the snap of ruined sails.

— *fin* —

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: All submissions to the Fortress must be received no later than 8:00pm on the 25th day of the month prior to publication of the newsletter. Publications will occur in January, April, June, October of 2020.

Content submitted to the Fortress must be accompanied by the proper release forms.

For further information, questions, and concerns, please contact the baronial chronicler at chronicler@caerthe-sca.org Vector Art provided by: [Vecteezy.com](https://vecteezy.com)

This is the April; 2021 issue of The Fortress, a publication of the Barony of Caerthe of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Fortress is available from Lindsay Clark, SCA Lady Maria Castelana, email: chronicler@caerthe-sca.org. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2021 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece.